

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 07812 091927Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /054 W

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P R 091535Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 829

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7812

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR UK

SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS VISIT TO LONDON

1. SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS DEPARTED ON OCT 9 FOR LONDON FOR A THREE DAY OFFICIAL TRIP, OCT 9-11, AT THE INVITATION OF PRIME MINISTER WILSON. THE VISIT HAS RECEIVED SOME ADVANCE PRESS PLAY, INDICATING THAT WHILE THE GREEKS HOPE TO GET SUPPORT FOR THEIR APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND FOR THEIR POSITION ON CYPRUS, THEY EXPECT THE BRITISH WILL PUT PRESSURE ON THEM FOR AN EARLY RETURN TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN NATO.

2. ACCORDING TO A BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE, THE BRITISH HOPE THE VISIT WILL AMELIORATE SOMEWHAT THE PRESENT COOLNESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CAUSED BY THE BRITISH ROLE IN CYPRUS CRISIS LAST YEAR AND MORE RECENTLY BY THE EVACUATION OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS FROM ONE OF THE BRITISH BASES IN CYPRUS EARLIER THIS YEAR (AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEMONSTRATION AND RESULTING DAMAGE TO THEIR EMBASSY IN ATHENS). HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE BRITISH AT THE SAME TIME SEEK  
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 07812 091927Z

TO DOWNPLAY THE PUBLICITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE VISIT SO AS

NOT TO ENGENDER EXCESSIVE EXPECTATIONS ON THE PART OF  
THE GREEK PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

3. EC ENTRY. FOLLOWING ON THE HEELS OF THE VISIT OF  
FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD TO ATHENS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND  
OF CARAMANLIS TO ROME LAST WEEK, THE PRIME MINISTER,  
ACCOMPANIED BY FTRMIN BITSIOS AND UNDER SECRETARY  
FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION LAMBRIAS (AND THE DIRECTOR OF HIS  
OFFICE AMB MOLYVIATES), LEFT THIS MORNING ON  
HIS LAST SCHEDULED 1975 VISIT TO COMPLETE THIS STAGE OF  
HIS EFFORT TO TIGHTEN TIES BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND THE  
COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. JUDGING FROM THE  
COMPARATIVELY SEDATE MANNER IN WHICH THE MEDIA HAS HANDLED  
THE PRE-VISIT PUBLICITY, BOTH SIDES WISH TO PLAY IT AS  
A WARM BUT NOT EFFUSIVE VISIT. THE BRITISH REPORTEDLY  
HAVE INVITED ONLY SIX GREEK JOURNALISTS TO ACCOMPANY  
THE PRIME MINISTER (SOME EIGHTY ODD FREENCH NEWSPAPERMEN  
CAME WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD AS GUESTS OF THE GOG DURING HIS  
VISIT TO GREECE). CARAMANLIS WILL SEEK  
BACKING FROM HIS HOSTS FOR GREECE'S  
APPLICATION FOR ENTRY INTO THE EC, ALTHOUGH THE BRITISH,  
MINDFUL OF THEIR OWN PAINFUL NEGOTIATIONS, ARE UNLIKELY  
TO PROMISE THE WORLD IN THIS RESPECT.

4. CYPRUS QUESTION. PRIME MIN CARAMANLIS WILL ALSO  
TRY TO GAIN GREATER PUBLIC SUPPORT IN LONDON FOR GREECE'S  
POSITION ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION. ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH  
EMBASSY, HOWEVER, HE IS UNLIKELY TO BE AS SUCCESSFUL  
ON THIS POINT AS HE WOULD LIKE. OUR BRITISH EMBASSY  
SOURCE SAID THAT IN ACCORD WITH RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN  
LONDON WITH ASSIST SECY HARTMAN, THE BRITISH LINE  
WOULD BE THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS REMAIN THE BEST  
PATH TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

5. NATO. THE GREEKS EXPECT THAT THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM  
THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO WILL ALSO BE A SUBSTANTIVE TOPIC  
FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE VISIT. THEY ANTICIPATE THAT THE  
BRITISH WILL PUT PRESSURE ON CARAMANLIS FOR THE FULL  
RETURN OF GREECE TO THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO.

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 07812 091927Z

6. REUTER INTERVIEW. ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE,  
PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO THE LOCAL  
REUTER CORRESPONDENT IN WHICH HE COMMENTED ON SEVERAL  
INTERNATIONSL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS THOSE OF PRIMARY CONCERN  
TO GREECE. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF HIS KEY COMMENTS:

A. WORLD PROBLEMS -- COMMENTING ON THE PROBLEMS OF

ENERGY AND FINANCE CARAMANLIS SAID "I DO NOT THINK THERE ARE ANY MAGIC SOLUTIONS FOR THESE PROBLEMS. IN MY OPINION, THEIR CONFRONTATION SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE SAME METHODS THAT SHOULD APPLY TO ALL INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS: UNDERSTANDING AND COMMON SENSE...I BELIEVE THAT BOTH THESE CURRENT PROBLEMS STEM FROM THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ANARCHY, OR AS IT IS OTHERWISE CALLED, CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND SPECIFIC ANTAGONISMS."

B. EUROPE'S ACUTE PROBLEMS--HE STATED THAT "THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE CYPRUS ISSUES ARE AT THIS MOMENT THE 'OPEN' PROBLEMS--NOT TO SAY THE 'OPEN WOULD'S'--IN EUROPE, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION.. THE VERY FACT THAT THESE PROBLEMS ARE STILL PENDING POSES A THREAT TO PEACE IN AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE PART OF THE WORLD..AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST IS CONCERNED, THE RECENT PROGRERS ALLOWS FOR CERTAIN HOPES..UNFORTUNATELY, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR THE CYPRUS ISSUE SINCE TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE IN THIS QUESTION CONTINUES UNABATED, AS DOES THE TRAGEDY OF THE 200,000 REFUGEES WHO SEE A SECOND WINTER APPROACHING WHILE THEY REMAIN AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES."

C. GREEK PROBLEMS -- IN REPLY TO A QUESTION AS TO WHICH WERE THE MOST TROUBLESOME PROBLEMS FOR GREECE, HE REPLIED "FIRST OF ALL THE CYPRUS ISSUE" (WHICH HE SAID WAS INITIALLY CREATED "BY THE COLONELS' IMPRUDENCE9). "OTHER PROBLEMS BEQUEATHED TO US BY THE DICTATORSHIP ARE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IN CHARACTER...HOWEVER THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY AND THE MATURITY DISPLAYED BY THE GREEK PEOPLE HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE MOST ACUTE ASPECTS OF THOSE PROBLEMS. THE ECNOMY HAS BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL.. INFLATION HAS BEEN CHECKED AND THE NATIONAL INCOME WILL INCREASE THIS YEAR, AS AGAINST THE DROP IT SHOWED LAST YEAR."

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PAGE 04 ATHENS 07812 091927Z

D. FOREIGN POLICY -- IN REPLY TO A QUESTION WHETHER HIS BALKAN INITIATIVE INDICATED A REORIENTATION OF GREECE'S FOREIGN POLICY, CARAMANLIS REPLIED "CERTAINLY NOT." HE CONTINUED "GREECE WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW, BECAUSE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HER TO REMAIN IN A MILITARY ALLIANCE WHICH HAD DONE NOTHING TO PROTECT HER FROM THE AGGRESSIVENESS OF ONE OF HER ALLIES. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY STATED THAT GREECE REMAINS FAITHFUL TO THE IDEOLOGY AND POLITICAL COALITION OF THE WESTERN WORLD..MORE THAN THAT, BY REQUESTING FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC, GREECE UNDERSCORES HER DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE.. TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE POLITICAL UNION OF EUROPE WHICH IT DEEMS NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THE VERY PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE WESTERN WORLD.. IN THE BALKANS, GREECE FELT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ESTABLISH CLOSER BILATERAL RELATIONS OF COLLABORATION..

SUCCESS IN THIS WOULD BE A FIRST AND PRACTICAL  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI."  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ATHENS07812  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CARAMANLIS VISIT TO LONDON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, GR, UK, (KARAMANLIS, KONSTANTINOS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006